

Prior law provided for the crime of unauthorized use of food stamp coupons, food stamp authorization cards, or food stamp access devices and provides for the following penalties based on the amount of the coupons, authorization cards, or access devices:

- (1) If the value is \$1,500 or more, the person shall be imprisoned for not more than ten years, may be fined not more than \$3,000, or both.
- (2) If the value is \$500 but less than \$1,500, the person shall be imprisoned for not more than five years, may be fined not more than \$2,000, or both.
- (3) If the value is less than \$500, the person shall be imprisoned for not more than six months, may be fined not more than five hundred dollars, or both.
- (4) On a third or subsequent offense, the person shall be imprisoned for not more than two years, fined not more than \$1,000, or both.

Prior law provided for the definitions of "food stamp coupon," "food stamp authorization card," and "food stamp access device."

New law changes the terminology in the crime of "unauthorized use of food stamp coupons, food stamp authorization cards, or food stamp access devices" from "food stamp coupons" to "supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits." New law retains the prior law elements of the crime.

New law amends penalties in prior law to provide that whoever commits the crime of unauthorized use of SNAP benefits or access devices shall be fined not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$1 million, imprisoned for not less than six months nor more than 10 years, or both.

New law creates the crime of failure to report unauthorized use of supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits which provides that employees of DCFS, owners, employees, and operators of retailers that accept SNAP benefit access device transactions, and adult household members of SNAP recipients shall report any instances of known fraud or abuse of SNAP benefits to the fraud detection section of DCFS via the Public Assistance Fraud Hot-Line as provided for by prior law.

Provides that whoever violates new law shall be fined not less than \$250 nor more than \$5,000.

Effective January 1, 2013.

(Amends R.S. 14:68.2; adds R.S. 14:68.2.1)